

Application Serial No.: 09/321,743

Attorney Docket No. 067220-0312883 (23453-009)

In Response to Office Action mailed November 17, 2004

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed November 17, 2004 (hereinafter "Final Action"), no claims have been amended, cancelled, or newly added. Therefore, claims 1-24 remain pending. In view of the following comments, allowance of all the claims pending in the application is respectfully requested.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (I.D.S.)

Applicants are submitting herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS"). Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the cited references and provide a signed copy of the Form PTO-1449 for this submission with the next Office Action.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-13, 15-20, and 22-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,567,796 to Yost *et al.* ("Yost"). See Final Action, pg. 2, ¶6. Claims 5, 9, 14, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yost in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,301,590 to Siow *et al.* ("Siow"). See Final Action, pg. 4, ¶7. Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yost in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,201,948 to Cook *et al.* ("Cook"). See Final Action, pg. 5, ¶8. Applicants traverse these rejections for *at least* the reason that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Independent claims 1, 10, 18, and 24 each generally recite, *inter alia*, the features of enabling a user to select a workbook comprising one or more reports to be requested for processing by an OLAP system, and enabling the user to select the format for each report in

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the workbook. The Examiner has failed to establish that the references relied upon, either alone or in combination, teach these features.

For example, in the Final Action (at pg. 3), the Examiner alleges that the aforementioned claim features are disclosed in Yost at col. 6, lines 31-62, and col. 8, lines 34-57.¹ It appears that the Examiner is relying on the “global personalization filters” of Yost (*e.g.*, col. 8, lines 34-40), as well as Yost’s disclosure that each report within a project may have different personalized filters applied according to user desires (*e.g.*, col. 8, lines 40-49). The “filters” referred to in these passages of Yost generally qualify report content. In other words, the filters may be used to enable users to identify a subset of data (*e.g.*, stock information, sales information, *etc.*) to be included in a report. This may reduce the amount of data output to a user by providing the user with data that the user is interested in. Specifying content (or data of interest) via filters, as relied upon by the Examiner, is different from selecting options pertaining to the formatting of each report in a workbook to be processed by an OLAP system, as disclosed and claimed by Applicants. For at least this reason, the rejection of independent claims 1, 10, 18, and 24 is improper and should be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 2-9, 11-17, and 19-23 are allowable because they depend from allowable independent claims, as well as for the further features they contain. For example, the dependent claims further clarify that a user can specify multiple levels of formats to be applied to the reports in the workbook, and that the multiple levels of formats can be applied in a hierarchical manner so that lower level formats supersede higher level formats. Additional features regarding formatting options for reports in a workbook are also presented

¹ The Examiner also alleges that Yost does not use the term “workbook,” although Yost does in fact recite this term at, for example, col. 7, lines 44-45.

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in one or more of the dependent claims. The personalization filters of Yost, which the Examiner also appears to rely on for the rejection of one or more of the dependent claims, relate to specifying content or data of interest, as recited above, and not to various levels of formats that can be applied to reports in a workbook to be processed by an OLAP system, as disclosed and claimed by Applicants. As such, the rejection of claims 1-24 should be withdrawn.

COMMENT ON YOST

Although Applicants traversed the claim rejections alleged by the Examiner in view of Yost, Applicants reserve the right to establish that Yost does not qualify as prior art to the subject matter of claims 1-24, should the Examiner maintain the rejections.

CLARIFICATION

In the Final Action, at pg. 2, ¶3, the Examiner recites that the attorneys of record were contacted on two occasions to schedule an Examiner Interview (as requested by Applicants with the submission of the Request for Continued Examination submitted on August 18, 2004), but that neither attempt resulted in the Examiner's call being returned. The undersigned wishes to clarify that the Examiner was contacted, however an Interview was not scheduled prior to the Examiner's required date for acting on the case.

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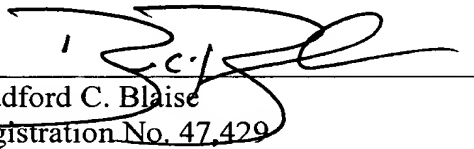
CONCLUSION

Having addressed each of the foregoing rejections, it is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Date: May 17, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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